

Operating Agreement
OF THE
NEBRASKA
RIPARIAN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Adopted July 26, 2007

Purpose

The Task Force shall develop and prioritize vegetation management goals and objectives, analyze the cost-effectiveness of available vegetation treatment, and develop plans and policies to achieve such goals and objectives. Any plan shall utilize the principles of integrated vegetation management and sound science. The Task Force shall work toward a mutual understanding of the problems and how to address these problems associated with vegetation management related to river basins. The efforts of the Task Force shall be initially directed toward river basins designated by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources as fully appropriated or overappropriated. The Task Force shall make preliminary recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding funding and legislation to achieve its goals. The Task Force shall be housed within the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA).

Except as noted, the Governor shall appoint one member from each of the following associations to the Task Force:

- One surface water project representative from each river basin that has been determined to be fully appropriated or overappropriated
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Natural Resources
- Office of the Governor
- Office of the State Forester
- Game and Parks Commission
- University of Nebraska
- Two representatives nominated by the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts
- Two representatives nominated by the Nebraska Weed Control Association
- One riparian landowner from each of the state's Congressional Districts
- Nebraska Environmental Trust
- Any member of the Legislature

Task Force members may send an alternate to represent them at the meetings; however, voting privileges are extended to Task Force members only.

Voting and Decision

Voting by the Task Force shall be by voting members only, each having one vote. Any action decided upon will require a two-thirds majority of the voting members present. A quorum will constitute a simple 51% or greater majority of the Task Force members.

Meetings

The Task Force shall hold regular biannual meetings during the first and last quarters of each fiscal year and shall be held in communities within the Republican River and Platte River basins. Special meetings may be called anytime by the chairperson, the NDA, or by a simple majority of the Task Force members. Advance notice of at least one week shall be given all members for all regular or special meetings. As the Task Force develops a long-term vision and plan for vegetation management in riparian areas, it may become necessary to establish subcommittees. Experts from outside the Task Force may be called upon to provide expertise and serve as working members of these subcommittees. Subcommittee recommendations will be advisory to the Task Force. Task Force members are eligible for reimbursement of expenses occurred while attending scheduled meetings, tours and events approved by the Task Force.

Officers

The Task Force shall, during the first regular meeting of the year, elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and a secretary-treasurer for one-year terms. These officers shall serve until replaced.

Observers

Task Force meetings will be open to the public. However, in order for the Task Force to achieve its mission, discussion, and deliberation, meetings must be focused and manageable. Participation by non-members of the Task Force will be at the discretion of the Task Force. Task Force meetings will include a period for public comment.

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